EXCISE

(1210)

E b6

GROSS MARGARET A
78 PORT OF SPAIN 3372
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 01 PORT O 03372 01 OF 02 231719Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 H-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
DODE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PPT-01 SVC-00 /055 W
---------- 040740 231728Z /41
O 231658Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3274
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT OF SPAIN 03372
E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO), TD
SUBJECT: MEMBERS OF PEOPLES' TEMPLE IN PORT OF SPAIN.
REFERENCE: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 3343; (B) PORT OF SPAIN 3371

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1. [redacted] AND [redacted] CAME TO EMBASSY THIS MORNING AND STATED THAT THEY HAD LEARNED FROM TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH PT MEMBERS IN GEORGETOWN THAT CERTAIN OF THEIR RELATIONS WERE AMONG THOSE KNOWN TO BE DECEASED AT JONES-TOWN.

[redacted]

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2. [redacted] STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH PT SINCE 1974 AND HAS SPENT MOST OF THAT TIME IN JONESTOWN. HE LEFT THE COMMUNE IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR GEORGETOWN AND DE-

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 3/2/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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PARTED GEORGETOWN WITH [redacted] AND [redacted] ON BOARD "ALBATROSS III." ON A BUYING TRIP TO TRINIDAD. ALL THERE WERE EMPHATIC THAT JONESTOWN HAD APPROXIMATELY 1,000 (ONE THOUSAND) RESIDENTS AND THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY EXODUS IN PAST MONTH. [redacted] FURTHER STATED THAT [redacted] HAD THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOGGING PASSPORTS, AND HE REMEMBERS HEARSAYING APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO THAT THERE WERE 954 RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN. SEE REPORTEDLY DID A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE MEMBERS BY AGE AND SEX AND [redacted] RECALLS THAT THERE WERE OVER 300 YOUNG PEOPLE (UNDER 16). THEY COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION AS TO DISPARITY IN FIGURES AND THE NUMBER REPORTED DEAD, ALTHOUGH THEY FELT THAT A LARGE NUMBER MAY HAVE ESCAPED INTO THE JUNGLE AND ATTEMPTED TO MAKE THEIR

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WAY TO MATTHEWS RIDGE. [redacted] SUGGESTED THAT SEARCH ELEMENTS CONTACT AN AMERINDIAN NAMED FRED JUPITER, WHO IS REPORTEDLY WELL KNOWN TO RESIDENTS OF PORT KAITUMA. JUPITER IS REPORTEDLY AN EXPERT TRACKER WHO IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA AROUND JONESTOWN. [redacted] ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A SEARCH BE MADE OF THE LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS AND THE FOOD WAREHOUSE. HE CLAIMS THAT A SIX MONTH SUPPLY OF STAPLES WAS MAINTAINED THERE AND DETAILED INVENTORIES WERE KEPT IN THE BUILDING. HE FELT THAT IF A LARGE NUMBER HAD ESCAPED, THERE MAY WELL BE AN APPARENT DEPLETION OF THE FOOD STOCKS. FINALLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT A SIMPLE COUNT OF THE BEDS IN JONESTOWN WOULD SUPPORT THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD NEARLY 1 ,000 INHABITANTS.

5. [redacted] ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMUNE'S PAVILLION WOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED TO CAPACITY IF ALL OF THE RESIDENTS HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED FOR THE SHOW WHICH HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR CONGRESSMAN RYAN ON FRIDAY. HE STATED THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A CLEAR INDICATION WHETHER A SIZEABLE NUMBER HAD LEFT OR BEEN REMOVED FROM JONESTOWN PRIOR TO RYAN'S ARRIVAL AS PAST ASSEMBLIES HAD OVERFLOWEDTHE PAVILLIONS CAPACITY.

6. [redacted] AND [redacted] APPEAR TO BE ARTICULATE, INTELLIGENT, AND COOPERATIVE. THEY EXPECT TO REMAIN IN PORT OF SPAIN AT LEAST UNTIL SATURDAY AND HAVE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

7. ON WEDNESDAY TRINIDADIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY MADE A COMPLETE SEARCH OF THE "ALBATROSS III," A 350 TON VESSEL REGISTERED IN PANAMA AND OWNED OR LEASED BY THE PEOPLES' TEMPLE, BUT RESULTS OF THE SEARCH WERE NEGATIVE. ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT [redacted] WILL SAIL WITH THE VESSEL WHEN IT DEPARTS FOR BARBADOS ON SATURDAY. [redacted]

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INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
DODE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PPT-01 SVC-00 /055 W
---------- 040753 231729Z /41
O 231659Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3275
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PORT OF SPAIN 03372
[redacted] AND [redacted] STATED THAT THEY HAVE NOT DECIDED E b6
WHETHER THEY WOULD ALSO LEAVE OR REMAIN IN PORT OF SPAIN
PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
3. FOR BRIDGETOWN: AMBASSADOR FOX IS AT THE AIRPORT HERE
AWAITING DEPARTURE AND HAS NOT SEEN THIS MESSAGE. PLEASE
PASS IT TO HIM UPON HIS ARRIVAL. FOX
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